

NATURE CENTER MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST

DEFINITION

To perform maintenance of marine and freshwater life-support systems, exhibits and related equipment; to provide facility and animal enclosure maintenance and related repair work; to perform light construction work related to Nature Center structures and grounds; assist in the Center's plant education activities for school groups and visitors; to perform landscape maintenance of gardens, grounds and marsh areas surrounding the Nature Center; to design, plan, maintain and install irrigation systems; and to provide common, rare and endangered species plant care, including plant propagation and cultivation;

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general supervision from the Nature Center Director.

May exercise technical and/or functional supervision over assigned staff and volunteers.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS – Functions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Perform maintenance of marine and freshwater life-support systems and equipment including backwashing of filters, checking water quality and making adjustments as necessary, and balancing seawater supply; design and fabricate life support system plumbing as needed.

Perform maintenance of Nature Center building and grounds to include painting and lubrication of gates, doors, and windows; and perform preventative maintenance of fixtures and appliances.

Maintain animal enclosures including hardware, structure and landscaping; make repairs and perform light construction as needed using hand and power tools and equipment including circular saw, reciprocating saw, drill and driver.

Performs light construction tasks in maintaining and repairing erosion control, diversion, and drainage systems to protect grounds and exhibits.

Oversee and perform a variety of tasks related to common, rare and endangered species plant care and propagation; and carry out landscape maintenance of gardens, grounds and irrigation systems surrounding the Nature Center.

Initiate new plant growth through various horticultural avenues; cut leaves, stems or rhizomes from parent plants and place in growth media; inspect growing areas to ascertain temperature and humidity conditions to conform with growth specifications; regulate systems of heaters, fans and sprayers to ensure plant growth.

Maintain a variety of routine records and prepare routine reports related to work; compile periodic reports.

Plant, fertilize, water, aerate, trim and prune plants and shrubs using hand and power landscaping tools and equipment including circular saw, reciprocating saw, drill, driver, rototiller, loader, sprayer, edger, blower, hedge trimmer, weed eater, chainsaw, rake, shovel, hoe, and pruner.

Apply herbicides, pesticides and fungicides in a safe manner to destroy undesirable growth and pests.

Identify and restore areas of the Nature Center grounds disrupted by past uses; re-vegetate Nature Center grounds as necessary by transplanting and cultivating plant growth; actively perform weed abatement.

Design, plan, install, and repair irrigation systems; design and implement water conservation measures.

Assist with the Nature Center's plant education activities for school groups and visitors.

Build and maintain positive working relationships with co-workers, other City employees and the public using principles of good customer service

Perform other related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Marine and freshwater life-support systems and related pumps, filters and water quality components.

Basic carpentry, plumbing, painting, and masonry methods, tools, and techniques.

Safe work methods and safety regulations related to the Nature Center.

Basic use and minor maintenance of commonly used hand and power tools and equipment.

Methods and techniques of planting, transplanting, cultivating, pruning and maintaining a variety of ground cover, plants shrubs and trees.

Rare and endangered plant species, which exist on Gunpowder Point/Sweetwater Marsh.

Plant propagation methods.

Soil preparation and enrichment in a coastal salt marsh environment.

Plant diseases and insect pests.

Appropriate use of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides.

Methods and equipment used in weed and pest control.

Installation and maintenance of irrigation systems.

English usage, spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Ability to:

Troubleshoot and repair marine and freshwater life-support systems and related pumps, filters and water quality components.

Use hand and power landscape tools and equipment.

Identify plant species.

Recognize and effectively treat plant diseases and insect pests.

Keep work related records and prepare reports using a computer.

Use initiative and sound independent judgment within established guidelines.

Work weekends and evenings when Center is open for workshops and special events.

Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Work with various cultural and ethnic groups in a tactful and effective manner.

Experience and Training:

Any combination of experience and training that would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

Experience:

Two years of responsible journey level experience involving semi-skilled structural and grounds maintenance work, including gardening, carpentry, plumbing, and painting for an organization or agency. Experience with marine life-support or pump operations systems is desirable.

Training:

Equivalent to the completion of the twelfth grade supplemented by specialized training in horticulture, carpentry, plumbing or a related field.

License or Certificate

Possession of, or ability to obtain a valid California driver's license.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

On a continuous basis walk, stand, bend, crouch or stoop for varying periods of time; use hands and fingers to grasp tools; make repetitive hand and body motions; twist and reach below and above shoulder, climb ladders and perform physical activities on a continual basis; lift or carry weight of 50 pounds or less with assistance or equipment see in the normal vision range with or without correction; hear in the normal range with or without correction; and speech acuity sufficient to communicate in person and by means of a telephone.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Work is primarily performed outdoors with exposure to a variety of weather conditions as well as noise, physical barriers, fumes and odors of fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and pesticides.

6/05